1. INTRODUCTION

In Egypt, economic circumstance have, sometimes favored sheep having the ability to produce desired type of lamb or mutton with desired qualities. Performance, live apraisal and carcass appraisal are all important determinats to the economic value of a lamb.

Crossbreeding is considered an important factor affecting lambs carcass traits. Breed-groups comparison are often made at a constant weight because variations in level of fat, lean and bone are readily interpreted in commercial terms. Breed comparisons at similar weights minimize environmental differences (Botkin et al., 1988).

Diet is certainly the most controversial factor influence on lamb carcass composition. In addition to level of feeding the composition of the diet can influence fat content of carcasses of similar weight.

Age and weight of lambs are interrelated. As lambs become older, they grow and increase in weight, but increases in age are negatively associated with palatability (Botkin et al., 1988). Dressing percentage increases as the age and live body weight of the lamb increase. The fat, lean and bone tissue in lamb carcass are variable according to carcass weight and age.

The aim of the present study is to evaluate the effect of breed-group factor (Ossimi and Ossimi×Rahmani) and slaughter age factor (6, 9 and 12 months of age) on carcass traits, carcass dimensions, meat quality and to predict weight of carcass cuts from body dimensions just before slaughtering.